



Tampa Letter Carrier

From the President's Desk



Alan W. Peacock
President, Branch 599

New events occurring are affecting everything from consolidations to conversions of carriers to full-time and the continual move to right size the Postal Service while waiting on pending legislation. The latest consolidations are miniscule compared to what might have happened if the Postal Service had closed 200 mail processing facilities. For the plan to consolidate the Mid-Florida plant in Lake Mary and forego closing the additional three other plants in our District that were targeted, changes dramatically the affect of excessing.



Due to these changes the Suncoast District is opened 100% for eReassignments for carrier PTF positions. There is not any current plan to open new hiring yet and that is all pending decisions that will be decided by legislation concerning six-day delivery. Congress is supposed to address another bill HR 6020, concerning this

during the middle of July and before their August recess. Throughout our branch for Tampa and all our associate offices we have been successful in converting PTF carriers to fulltime vacancies. Currently, Plant City and soon Tampa, will not have enough PTF carriers to promote to fulltime vacancies. There has already been a staffing grievance filed in Plant City and as soon as Tampa exhausts the remaining PTF carriers

in the complement a staffing grievance will be filed there as well. For the TE carriers who are wondering their fate, the test is currently open again and if you can either improve your score or your current score has expired, it is highly recommended that you take the test. The hope of the NALC is that there will be something good that comes out of the Contract Arbitration that will change the status of TE carriers. The value of trained TE carriers, many who have

over five years experience, is something that should not go to waste.

The recent quarterly meeting with the District Manager Nancy Rettinhouse and the Branch leaders of NALC in the district was well attended as well as informative. Some of the topics of discussion included conversions, consolidations including CFS for the Southern Area being all sent through Tampa. Discussed the pros and cons of six-day route inspections versus the alternative route adjustment process along with minor adjustments being on the table. The introduction of new scanners that will be coming in the new fiscal year; they will be smart phones with real-time technology and GPS. We are hoping that will eliminate the need for managed service point scans. The presentation also included voice of

(Continued on page 3)



Branch Meeting
Thursday
August 2
7:30 PM

Branch 599 Office

3003 W Cypress Street
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Fax 813.870.0599

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Monday-Friday

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Tampa Letter Carrier

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It is the policy of this publication that all articles submitted for print must be signed by the writer.

Please submit any and all articles to be published in the *Tampa Letter Carrier* to the Editor via email at editor@nalc599.com no later than the 5th of each month in order for us to meet our time limits to the publisher.

Officers

Position	Officer	Phone	
President	Alan W. Peacock	813.765.0599	apeacock.nalc@verizon.net
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Vice President	Tony Diaz	813.598.9635	dcoach9@tampabay.rr.com
Recording Secretary	Michael Brink	813.661.1639	recording.sec@nalc599.com
Financial Secretary	Gilbert Cabanas	813.855.0516	financial.sec@nalc599.com
Treasurer	Ray Garcia	813.787.3640	treas.ray@nalc599.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	J.C. Howard	813.310.0689	
MBA/NSBA	Al Guice	813.422.4967	
Health Benefit Rep.	Terry Franklin	813.758.3061	
Director of Retirees	Lance Jones	813.220.1292	
Trustee Chair	Lori McMillion	813.263.7101	
Trustees	John DeRosa	813.850.8418	
	Warren Sumlin	813.486.7612	
Labor Management	Sam Santilli	813.215.7595	
	John Rowland	813.770.7769	
Presidents Emeritus	Garland Tickle • Orbe Andux		
	Donald Thomas • Michael Anderson		
	James Good		

Executive Board

Meets

Thursday 6:30 PM

August 2

September 6

Shop Stewards

will Meet

Tuesday 7 PM

July 31

August 28

Shop Stewards

Station	ZIP	Steward	Station No.	Steward's No.
Tampa Stations/Branches Chief Steward, Brian Obst 727.458.0679				
Brandon	33510	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
	33511	Terry Franklin	813.661.1639	813.758.3061
Carrollwood	33618	Donna Dayton	813.960.8894	813.417.5589
Commerce	33602	Pedro Jimenez	813.242.4507	813.727.9280
Forest Hills	33612	Alan Robinson	813.935.2954	813.843.9762
Forest Hills Annex	33613	Nick Cullaro	813.935.2954	813.541.8159
Hilldale	33614	Sam Santilli	813.874.6809	813.215.7595
Hilldale Annex	33634	Varick Reeder	813.889.3913	315.491.6234
Hyde Park	33606	George McEndree	813.873.7189	813.935.0244
Interbay/Port Tampa	33611/16	Marie Brown	813.831.2034	727.331.9907
Interbay/Peninsula	33629	Sammy Graham	813.831.2034	813.454.3319
Palm River Annex	33619	J.C. Howard	813.663.0048	813.310.0689
Plant City	33564	Varick Reeder	813.719.6793	315.491.6234
Produce	33610	John DeRosa	813.237.4280	813.850.8418
Ruskin/Sun City Ctr	33570		813.634.1403	
Seminole Heights	33603	Tony Diaz	813.237.4569	813.598.9635
Sulphur Springs	33604	John Rowland	813.237.4569	813.770.7769
TCA/Peninsula	33609	Brian Obst	813.873.7189	727.458.0679
TCA/West Tampa	33607	George McClelland	813.873.7189	813.270.5035
Temple Terrace	33617	Warren Sumlin	813.988.0152	813.486.7612
Town 'N Country	33615/35	Brian Obst	813.884.0973	727.458.0679
Ybor City	33605	Detlev Aepfel	813.242.4507	813.505.7914

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

employee scores and a ranking process for every office in the district. The most important dialogue came from the District Manager when she stated that where management is continuing to violate the contract, that it has to stop. We can only wait and see if that filters down to the lowest level. There also is supposed to be training for all supervisors and managers on the dispute resolution process. That will be beneficial if disputes are allowed to be settled at the lowest level as they should be.

Last but not least, we welcome back a former Officer in Charge and now Postmaster of Tampa, Debra Gornik. We look forward to continuing to bridge any gap between labor and management. We will continue to promote the need to have mutual respect and dignity for all employees and provisions for a harmonious workplace. We want to thank past OIC Mike Figlia for the efforts that were made under his watch to resolve many issues and assisting in improving the Labor/Management process. We have much work to accomplish in our efforts to

keep the value of employees at the forefront, for the best outcome for the future of the Postal Service. After all, the Suncoast District leads the nation in bringing new revenue to the Postal Service and exceeded the goal with 134% effort in customer connects. We are the most visible contact our customers have and we are the impression that they have of our company; keep up the great job representing the U.S. Postal Service.

Fraternally and In Solidarity,

Alan Peacock
President, NALC Br 599

Around the Horn

Brothers and Sisters, thank you for the responses and kind words in regards to the mention about my son I included in my article last month. I again want to thank the Sunday morning, July 8, crew who showed up for our continued volunteer work party. In all we had 3 brothers who showed up and worked very hard from 9-11 AM, to support this branch. That is no typo; 3 volunteers: Rocky Cash Randels, Pat Krezel and myself. In addition, 1 volunteer on Saturday (Mike Fite), who could not make it Sunday, so 4 total. I will continue to organize these volunteer work parties on the first Sunday after our monthly union meeting for as long as I have brothers and sisters who will help me and volunteer their time, no matter how many come out. It is what it is...I will take any who are able and appreciate their efforts. However, if you could indulge me for a little venting; having returned from this work party, as I sit in front of my computer to finalize my article, I am not angered, but disappointed. I am not disappointed at the regular volunteers who did not show up this morning, because I expect no one to make it every

month. Everyone has their family obligations and has a life outside the union functions. I am disappointed we have such a low number of volunteers we can count on, not just for these work parties, but in reality, for anything we need volunteers for. This list would include: work parties, the Labor Day Picnic, rallies, pickets, and even our monthly union meetings are poorly attended. So when a couple of regular volunteers cannot show, we have no others to cover for them, and thus the poor turnout. One representative per month per station would be more than we average monthly. As all of you are aware, I constantly advocate to get involved. We need retirees and active members! Thank you for your indulgence.

Contract Negotiations

Lately I have been asked frequently about the contract negotiations and where we are in the process. Under the Postal Reorganization Act, if mediation fails, which it has, the parties must arbitrate the terms of the new labor contract in a process known as *interest arbitration*. The parties select a mutu-

ally acceptable neutral arbitrator; typically one who is well known and widely respected. (NALC Activist) At press time for my article an arbitration chairman (Shyam Das) has been named and the hearings are being scheduled for binding arbitration between the NALC and the USPS.

From Google.com, a little history about Arbitrator Das:

- ARBITRATION: Full-time Labor Arbitrator since 1977, hearing
- EXPERIENCE: cases on a wide variety of issues in the private and public sectors.
- Chairman, Board of Arbitration of U.S. Steel Corporation and United Steelworkers (1997-).
- Chairman of the Arbitration Panel, Major League Baseball and MLB Players Assn. (1999-).
- National Arbitration Panels: **US Postal Service and Postal Workers (1996-); USPS and Mail Handlers (2002-); USPS and Letter Carriers (2003-);** Federal Aviation Admin. and



Tony Diaz
Vice President
Branch 599

(Continued on page 5)

Treasurer's Report – June 2012



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

May 30 BB&T Operating Account \$13,171.81

Deposits

NALC Secretary Treasurer [3]	\$19,921.35
2012 National Delegates Refund [6]	780.00
Palm River Station	379.00
Branch Meeting	241.00
Ybor City Station	169.00
Lakeland Newsletter Printing	272.70
BB&T Operating Account Interest	.26

Expenses

Branch Officer Salaries [13, monthly]	\$1,812.00
Branch President Salary [2 PP]	4,921.60
President's Health Benefit [monthly]	327.60
Branch Office Secretary's Salary [2 PP]	2,400.00
VP work for President [5 hours]	135.85
Branch Steward Salaries [20, monthly]	2,995.00
Stewards Lost Wages [3]	458.34
Building Manager Salary [monthly]	600.00
Editor/Webmaster Salary [monthly]	160.00
Hall Rental Worker [1]	125.00
Branch Meeting Security Guard	45.00
Branch Meeting Expenses	52.89
Reimburse President [water, sodas]	67.85
Secretary Treasurer NALC	92.65
United Members Insurance [building]	2,987.60
Donation to Matthew Gibson	789.00
BB&T Operating Account Checks	151.65
Repair Executive Office Chairs [6]	120.00
AT&T Wireless [President]	109.42
Verizon [Telephone & Internet]	367.66
Staples Credit Plan	918.45
Pitney Bowes	100.00
BB&T Service Charges [2]	16.95

Accounts as of June 30

BB&T Operating Account	\$14,352.50
BB&T Building Fund	25,226.76
MidFlorida Credit Union Savings	254.88
MidFlorida Credit Union CD	100,000.00
Regions Bank CD	50,000.00
USAmeriBank CD	200,000.00
USAmeriBank MM [Training Fund]	18,776.60
Total Balance Available	\$408,610.74

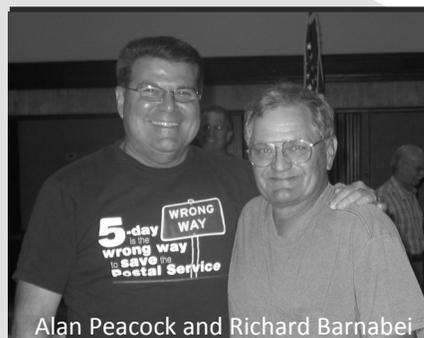
Sharing Our Members' Joys and Sorrows

Get well wishes & prayers are sent to **Michael Crowder** [Interbay] who is at Cypress Palms Assisted Living, Largo; and to **Herman Pete Green** [Hyde Park] while recuperating from surgery.

Our deepest sympathy and prayerful support is extended to Dot and family at the homegoing of her husband, **Orville Renner** [retiree], July 7.

Corrections
July's newsletter contained some errors that we want to correct: Frankie Ramos' mother passed, not his wife; and Dena Ponticello's husband was riding a bicycle [not motorcycle] when hit by a car. We apologize for the misinformation.

Richard Barnabei Retired!



Alan Peacock and Richard Barnabei

President Alan Peacock recognized **Richard Barnabei** [Town 'N Country] during our Branch

meeting in July and presented him with a check from the Branch for his retirement.

Around the Horn

(Continued from page 3)

Professional Airways Systems Specialists (2005-); FAA and National Air Traffic Controllers Assn. (2006-).

- Other Arbitration Panels include: Washington Metro Area Transit Auth. and ATU Local 689 (2002-); National Football League and NFL Players Assn. (2004-); Merck and USW Local 1-86 (2005-); United Airlines Pilots System Bd. of Adjustment (2007-).

- Former Arbitration positions: Chairman, Iron Ore Industry Board of Arbitration (1995-98); Member of Presidential Emergency Board No. 232 (1996-97); Impartial Umpire, Bethlehem Steel Corporation and USWA (1991-96).

- Member of United States Government Foreign Service Grievance Board (1983-1991).

- Member of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service roster of arbitrators, National Mediation Board roster of arbitrators, American Arbitration Association's Labor Panel.

- Contributing Author - *The Common Law of the Workplace*, ed. St.

Antoine, Theodore, National Academy of Arbitrators, (1998 and 2005). PROFESSIONAL - Member: National Academy of Arbitrators;

AFFILIATIONS: American Bar Assn. Fellow: The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers

OTHER: Admitted to practice of law in Pennsylvania.

EXPERIENCE: Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Pittsburgh (1971-77). Adjunct Professor (1977-81 and 2000).

- Legal Associate, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, New York City (1969-71).

EDUCATION:

- B.A. (History)-Harvard University, 1965.

- M.A. (Social Sciences)-University of Chicago, 1966.

- LL.B.-Yale University Law School, 1969.

The APWU has already agreed to a contract without binding arbitration, and now as of July 3, the NRLC has an agreement through binding arbitration. The agreements, related to wages are the same.

From postalnews.com, here are some of the highlights of the NRLC agreement:

The outcome of the binding arbitration process between USPS and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association has resulted in a contract. The agreement is effective July 3, 2012 and lasts through May 20, 2015. The Postal Service is facing a critical financial situation that requires both substantial cost savings from within, as well as substantive legislative reforms from Congress. The arbitrator's decision includes important cost-savings provisions that will benefit the Postal Service over the life of the contract. However, it does not go as far as the Postal Service believes is necessary to address its financial challenges.

The results of the Interest Arbitration Award include the following provisions:

- A 2-year wage freeze, followed by modest increases
- November 17, 2012 1.0% increase (COLA deferred to 2013)
- November 16, 2013 1.5% increase plus COLA
- November 15, 2014 1.0% increase plus COLA
- A lower wage scale for new career employees (more than 10%)
- Lower wages for new non-career employees (more than 20%)
- An increase in the employee share of health insurance premiums (the same phased-in schedule as the American Postal Workers Union agreement)
- An agreement to reopen health

insurance negotiations if Congress or another union acts on a proposal for new health insurance package other than the Federal Employees Health Benefit plan.

- Work standard changes that will improve productivity and lower costs.

So what can the letter carriers expect? The NALC will present its case in the best interest of all letter carriers. This will include all the extra work we participate in the community (1. Food Drive, 2. MDA, 3. Toys for Tots, 4. Carrier Alert Program). We are the face of the Postal Service and do more in our communities throughout the country than any other craft and union. This is the bargaining power the other unions did not have in their negotiations. In addition, *Customer Connect* cannot work without the letter carriers' effort; our presence helps to generate leads to increase revenues.

Quick Hits:

Information you should know

*) Congrats to my cousin, Dennis Lorenzo, on turning the big 5-0h! The surprise party was awesome and a good time was had by all.

Look forward to talking to you again on the next *Around The Horn*

Sunday
Work Party
at the Hall

August 5
9-11 AM



West Central Florida Federation of Labor

PO Box 76108 • Tampa, Florida 33675 • 863.583.3330

Congressional Races

U.S. House of Representatives, Dist. 13	Jessica Ehrlich	PO Box 7224, St. Petersburg 33734
U.S. House of Representatives, Dist. 14	Kathy Castor	301 W Platt St. #385, Tampa 33606
U.S. House of Representatives, Dist. 16	Keith Fitzgerald	PO Box 3708, Sarasota 34230

State Legislature

Florida House, Dist. 35 (Hernando/Pasco)	Rose Rocco	1075 Overland Dr., Spring Hill 34608
Florida House, Dist. 41 (Polk)	Karen Welzel	3310 Fox Ridge Dr., Winter Haven 33884
<i>*Florida House, Dist. 55 (Highlands)</i>	Randy Johnson	9 Crosley Ln., Sebring 33870
Florida House, Dist. 62 (Hillsborough)	Janet Cruz	PO Box 4544, Tampa 33677
<i>*Florida House, Dist. 63 (Hillsborough)</i>	Mark Danish	18048 Arbor Crest Dr., Tampa 33647
Florida House, Dist. 65 (Pinellas)	Carl Zimmermann	2160 Vance Ave., Palm Harbor 34683
<i>*Florida House, Dist. 67 (Pinellas)</i>	Ed Hooper	PO Box 4268, Clearwater 33758
Florida House, Dist. 68 (Pinellas)	Dwight Dudley	1127 – 9 th Ave. N, St. Petersburg 33705
Florida House, Dist. 69 (Pinellas)	Joshua Shulman	PO Box 41321, St. Petersburg 33743
Florida House, Dist. 70 (Pinellas/Manatee)	Darryl Rouson	Unopposed/elected
Florida House, Dist. 71 (Manatee/Sarasota)	Adam Tebrugge	PO Box 770, Bradenton 34206
<i>*Florida Senate, Dist. 15 (Polk)</i>	Jack Myers	PO Box 2158, Auburndale 33823
<i>*Florida Senate, Dist. 20 (Pinellas)</i>	Jack Latvala	610 S. Boulevard, Tampa 33606
<i>*Florida Senate, Dist. 22 (Hillsborough/Pinellas)</i>	Jim Frishe	6617 Blue Heron Dr. S, St. Petersburg 33707
Florida Senate, Dist. 26 (Manatee/Hardee/DeSoto/Highlands/Glades/Charlotte)	Paula House	P.O. Box 2980, Lake Placid 33862

Judicial Circuits

<i>*Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit (Pasco/Pinellas)</i>	Andy Steingold	915 Wyngate Ct., Safety Harbor 34695
<i>*Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit (Pasco/Pinellas)</i>	Brian Battaglia	980 Tyrone Blvd., St. Petersburg 33710
<i>*Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit (Pasco/Pinellas)</i>	Jack Day	1397 Eden Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg 33704
<i>*Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit (Polk/Hardee/Highlands)</i>	Larry Helms	PO Box 860, Winter Haven 33882
<i>*State Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit (DeSoto/Manatee/Sarasota)</i>	John Torracco	PO Box 5833, Sarasota, 34277
<i>*Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough)</i>	Mark R. Wolfe	301 W. Platt St., #136, Tampa, 33606

2012 ENDORSEMENTS As of July 12, 2012 (with *Primary Candidates ID'd)

Municipal Races

Citrus County

*County Commission, District 1
*Sheriff

Dennis Damato PO Box 1312, Crystal River 34423
Steven Burch (thru Primary) 6752 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Crystal River 34429

Hernando County

County Commission, District 3
*Supervisor of Elections

Diane Rowden 10350 Fulton Ave., Weeki Wachee 34613
Elizabeth Townsend 7624 Granitville Dr., Wesley Chapel 33545

Hillsborough County

County Commission, District 6
*County Judge, Group 3
*County Judge, Group 4
*County Judge, Group 12
*School Board, District 3
*School Board, District 5
*Supervisor of Elections
Tax Collector

Kevin Beckner 12911 Vicksburg Dr., Tampa 33625
Joelle Ann Ober 800 E. Twiggs St., Rm. 308, Tampa 33602
Barbara Twine PO Box 172058, Tampa 33672
Matt Lucas PO Box 130054, Tampa 33681
Dr. Jack Lamb 9725 Tiffany Oaks Ln., Tampa 33612
Doretha Edgecomb PO Box 311149, Tampa 33680
Craig Latimer PO Box 2303, Lutz 33548
Doug Belden 1128 Shipwatch Cir., Tampa 33602

Pinellas County

County Commission, District 1
*County Commission, District 7
*School Board, District 7
*Sheriff

Janet Long PO Box 8233, Seminole 33772
Kenneth Welch PO Box 13765, St. Petersburg 33733
Rene Flowers PO Box 14011, St. Petersburg 33733
Scott Swope PO Box 1021, Palm Harbor 34682

Manatee County

*Sheriff

William Waldron 4002 – 42nd St. W, Bradenton 34205

Pasco County

Clerk of Court
*Property Appraiser
*School Board, Dist. 2
School Board, Dist. 4

Paula O'Neil PO Box 7110, Bayonet Point 34674
Mike Wells (thru Primary) 37824 Bougainvillea Ave., Dade City 33525
Hurley, Joanne B. PO Box 1379, Land O Lakes, 34639
Crumbley, Alison Unopposed/elected

Polk County:

County Commission, District 5
*Supervisor of Elections

Ricky Shirah 5505 Hidden Lake Rd., Lakeland, 33810
Lori Edwards PO Box 1083, Bartow, 33881

A Point of Personal Privilege

There, I've said it!

For the third month in a row, a motion was put on the Branch Meeting's floor to sell the building. Just like in May, June and July the motion was defeated. The newsletter has had several writers stating their reasons for the necessity to sell the building. These individuals have also been those that in no uncertain language indicated that the building has lost its viability and that it is an old broken down facility that needs too many repairs to be productive. Their mandate and prevailing idea is to sell the building! With the moneys received supposedly from the sell, the Branch should rent a newer facility, or rent a space until a new, but smaller Letter Carriers Hall is built in another area of Hillsborough County? I imagine that we will have a motion-a-month until those of us that do not want to sell our current building have gone to that Letter Carriers' Hall in the sky! Yes, I've said it and written it down on paper. *I am against the selling of my and your Letter Carriers Hall located at 3003 W. Cypress St...period!* Over the past few months several members have also written how the building can be maintained and why the building should not be sold! These are members who have been involved with the Union longer than those that want to sell the building! They have also been NALC Union Members longer than those pro-sellers have been. Two of these individuals were lambasted. Nor were they one of the yea voters of the monthly motion/s to sell the building. I want to try to understand why under these individuals' watch was the building not maintained on a regular basis? It seems to me they waited until different things in the building broke before fixing them. Don't you have things maintained on a regular basis? I believe that not one of these individuals really wants to come up with any type of constructive programs or ideas to allow more revenues to come into our coffers other than to SELL!

How about these ideas:

- Let's have a weekly dance with set-ups for sale, etc.?
- Maybe have a Casino night to raise moneys with prizes awarded for the winners?
- How about having different types of tournaments held at the hall with a set entry fee?

These are not my ideas, but I agree that other avenues should be sought prior to selling this, our building.

Our main income now is through monthly dues returned to us from the Secretary-Treasurer of NALC and through our rentals of the building. These dues are decreasing because our local membership is decreasing through retirement, etc. One individual has stated that the Union is not in the rental business and that the \$money\$ in the work stoppage should be used for the membership in case of a work stoppage. I disagree with both statements. In order for this Union to operate, we need to be in the rental business on a regular basis and have a rental agent/building manager that is aggressive in making sure the building is rented. Especially, since his monthly salary should be based on the amount of monthly rentals. The building has always been rented ever since I was a teenager some 51 years ago (I attended many a dance on the weekends). There seemed to always be weddings, family get-togethers, etc. held at the Letter Carriers Hall (which was built by many of the old-timers cement block by cement block long before any of us became Letter Carriers). The work stoppage fund was never intended to be used to assist with or loan moneys to Union members out of work. It was to be used to maintain the building and its operation. Additionally, the moneys were to be allocated to pay for any legal fees should officers of this Union be arrested for an illegal work stoppage (according to the National Agreement and the Federal Government,

Letter Carriers cannot go out on strike). I believe at one time TLC Inc. used to loan moneys (about \$600) to Union members should they be suspended, fired or out of work because of an injury. This was stopped due to do the lack of repayment in a timely manner once the Letter Carrier/s got their jobs back or went back to work. There are some who want the work stoppage moneys split up amongst those that had the moneys withdrawn from their pay. This would be impossible to properly distribute, as far as I know, because there are no records or listings of which carriers did or did not contribute. However, we could change the Bylaw to utilize the work stoppage fund to upgrade the air conditioning units and have a maintenance agreement on them. (What was neglected to be stated that the new AC units would be placed on the ground, upon cement platforms, for easy access for maintenance and repair. This would stop the necessity for using two ladders to reach the roof where they are currently located. There would be venting for the three units through the side of the building. Each new AC unit would save the Union operation moneys because they would have a higher SEER rating and one unit could be used to keep the hall cool in the summer at less cost than starting all three up hours before a meeting or rental.) Once they were removed from the roof, the roof could be repaired or rebuilt (and covered by a warranty) to code by having it pitched for the drainage of water and the water distributed by a gutter system from the heavy rains we often have instead of the flat roof which does not drain properly but now sags causing the water to puddle. The puddle effect has deteriorated much of the roof's original protection and minor leaks have occurred which will eventually lead to major leaks. (I don't know about you



Ray Garcia
Treasurer
Branch 599

(Continued on page 11)

Sell Sell Sell

The word *sell* seems to be the only thought on the minds of a few members for the past 3 months. This subject has been voted on and defeated at our monthly meeting again and again. Why is the subject such a pressing issue for these members? Has the age of our building become a problem for them? Didn't they know that time eventually takes a toll on everything and everybody? Don't we have a share in deterioration in our hall? While we were enjoying the fruits of our income provided by the hall, the maintenance was never once one of our regularly scheduled issues. First, do we buy another building or build a new one? And if we do build a new building, do we sell it in 15 years, or whenever the building needs a new roof? Can we buy a new hall large enough to be able to rent out for the income that is needed to survive? It will be hard for us to duplicate our present hall with its huge parking lot. We do need a large enough hall to rent out because all of the bills associated with the upkeep of the hall's needs are our responsibility, not something we

should pass onto others to fix. All of the hall's issues and needs happened on our watch; we should solve that problem. We have \$350,000 in our strike fund. This money cannot be used for a carrier strike or begin a loan fund. Some members thought we should return this money back to the original members who contributed to the fund. We simply don't know which carriers contributed what amounts or for how many years they contributed. So, it makes sense to repair our hall roof, buy 3 air conditioners, and resurface the parking lot. We will need about \$150,000 to fix all of the hall's needs, which will leave us about \$200,000 in that account. This amount in our strike fund will still be a nice nest egg for our future.

If and when we do decide to sell our hall, with all our carriers voting on this issue, we would receive a much better price for our investment. The bottom line is that we need a larger hall for rentals. The rental's profits pay all of the utility bills, kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, and outside and inside light fixtures. Without that building fund from

rentals, the operating fund from Union dues would be in the red in less than 6 months. Even with the purchase of a new building, sooner or later we would be faced with maintenance problems. So, can we sell our building? Of course we can. Can we find a new or old property that would satisfy our needs? That is the real question. We cannot continue to pass over these problems. These problems are our responsibility to solve because the needs have surfaced when we were in office. So, stay with our great hall or buy another one; we must provide regular maintenance on our property. Would you buy a new car and not buy a maintenance package for it? You wouldn't even buy an older car and not be faced with upkeep on it. I believe we should fix our hall because it has provided us with over 50 years of profits. So rebuilding its needs is the right thing to do. We should not sell away our legacy without a fight. Remember, the grass always seems greener on the other side.



Gilbert Cabanas
Financial Secretary
Branch 599

Fundraiser for Kathy Castor's Campaign

A fundraiser was held by Kathy Castor's campaign organizer at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel on June 13 and was attended by FSALC President Al Friedman, State Legislative Liaison Jim Good, NALC Br. 599 President Alan Peacock, Br. 599 Vice President Tony Diaz, Br. 599 COLCPE Chair Lance Jones, Br. 599



Tony Diaz, Jim Good, Alan Peacock
Lance Jones, Al Friedman, Kathy Castor, Sam Santilli

Congressional District Liaison for Kathy Castor's District Sam Santilli. A contribution from COLCPE for Kathy Castor's re-election campaign was presented at this fundraiser. We thanked the Congresswoman for all the support she has always given the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service.

Unionism – National Convention

It is once again time for the Bi-annual National Convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The convention is called for in our National Constitution in Article 3 Section 1, where it states:

The National Convention of this Union shall be held biennially in even numbered years between the Fourth of July and the third full week of August.

This year our National Convention is set for the week of July 23-27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Every two years, the Branch elects delegates to attend the National Convention to represent all the members of the local Branch. These elected delegates are tasked with the responsibility of gathering information, helping set National Policy for the NALC, consider constitutional amendments and discuss key issues affecting all letter carriers through the various committees. Additionally, every other convention, the delegates will nominate members running for National Office in the NALC.

In addition to all of these items that occur on the convention floor there are many additional training classes, meetings and seminars that the delegates attend to help round out their education on issues that affect the membership. By attending these classes and seminars the delegates can then bring

back to the members of their respective branches these additional education opportunities, thereby keeping the Branch and its members up-to-date with all the current changes happening on a National level.

Now is the time to ensure that you know who the delegates for your Branch are and you should speak with them so they know what concerns you have so they can ensure to get whatever answers they can from their National Officers. During this convention I am sure the ongoing negotiations for our contract will be a topic of discussion, but information may be slim, as the negotiations are ongoing and the release of negotiation information can upset the delicate balance of the process. You can be sure that any information imparted to the delegates will most certainly be brought back for the membership. While the classes and seminars provide a wealth of knowledge and information for the delegates, they are not the only resource available during this week. The ability to meet and discuss issues with members from all over the country opens an information expanse that most carriers are never exposed to during their careers. One only need think about the issues affecting them on a daily basis to understand this. If one is having issues locally it is almost a sure thing that it is

also happening elsewhere and talking to members from other areas opens one's eyes to different ways to address problems that affect us all. In the same vein it is entirely possible that we might be able to assist members in other areas of the country with how we address certain issues in our neck of the woods.

Remember, my column is called "UNIONISM" and I can't think of a better way to truly show Unionism than delegates from all parts of the country, that are members of this great Union, gathering together with one common goal: to endeavor to make this Union better and stronger for all its members.

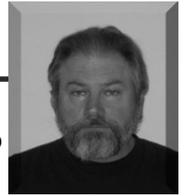
I wish to thank the membership, in advance, for allowing me to represent you as a delegate to this convention. It has been and always will be my opinion that you can never learn too much and everything I learn will always be returned to the membership in spades.

In closing I would like to remind all of the membership once again that – **Knowledge is the Key.**

Until next month,

Brian Obst

Stations/Branches Chief Steward



Brian Obst
Tampa Stations/
Branches
Chief Steward
Branch 599

AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic

Monday September 3
Boggy Bottom Ranch

Cost is \$3 per plate in advance and \$10 per plate the day of event.

There will be entertainment and games for children.

Candidates for Election are invited.

Call the Branch office for ticket information and directions
or see your Shop Steward.

Retirees Breakfast

Monday August 6 9 AM

Coffee Cup
4407 N. Hubert Avenue, Tampa

Next month's
will be September 10.

A Point of Personal Privilege

(Continued from page 8)

but everyone that I know who has had a flat roof has had to have it repaired and maintained constantly.) Supposedly, the hall's roof was to be maintained by the original roofing company, but it apparently went bankrupt; of course the warranty that we had is worthless. Please note that I did not mention any specific names in the above portion of this article!

I do not know how many individuals really care or even want to know why Bingo/TLC Inc. was dissolved, but here goes. It seems there are complaints as to why it was dissolved. While attending classes, President Peacock, Financial Secretary Cabanas and I found out that the federal laws of the Department of Treasury (IRS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) had changed as of January 2011 with regard to having a holding company like Bingo, aka Tampa Letter

Carriers, Inc. In essence we were told that every amount of money coming into the building such as Bingo, had to be accountable and properly tracked with receipts, etc. The income and pay-outs of all moneys had to have a thorough and complete paper trail. No amount of moneys/cash should be paid out without federal, unemployment and Medicare taxes withheld for all volunteers. *(Look up the definition of volunteer... This is a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.)* Another way that Bingo could have been done to satisfy the IRS was to track the participants/volunteers with a Form 1099 (this form states how much money was given to each volunteer over \$600 a year) for each one, which should be filed with the IRS at year's end! Several individuals suggested that we might be able to get a church or another type of nonprofit organization to operate Bingo

at the hall. They could have paid TLC Inc. for the rental of the building and the use of the Bingo system which was eventually sold. Apparently no one wanted to attempt to do this to preserve the limited income that was available. In all probability with a church, etc. operating the Bingo, it might or could have increased the dwindling attendance of player\$? Since then we have been told that we panicked because for many years TLC Inc. and Bingo had been operated the same way and nothing had happened. (The captain of the Titanic didn't panic either; he just didn't do the right thing!) We have also been told we are the individuals that killed the goose that laid the golden eggs. With no cooperation, we were forced to do what the IRS and DOL required!

There is nothing wrong with making mistakes. Just don't respond with encores.
—Anonymous

ARSLAN UNIFORMS

Bill & Shirley Moran

Retired Letter Carrier Branch 1477 St. Petersburg

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